

19 January 1966

Dear Shirley,

That's very interesting, the auction of the two smuggled Ruby letters by Charles Hamilton. I am in Outer Space (UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of) to be followed by the Trade Board and other trivia which pin me down physically in one spot--making it impossible for me to squeeze in the auction business. But my friend Bill Crehan is just the man for the assignment, and I will turn it over to him. Bill is my occasional assistant, specializing in Xerox and newspaper clippings on the case. I met him in the New School class on the Warren Report and at first glance was convinced he was the FBI spy, because he was so tall and 100% Wasp. But it turned out that he is very anti-Report (though pro-Viet Nam, which is disgusting of him). Anyway, he is quite trustworthy in character, if not in political acumen (he is an ex-Marine, but unlike LHO a standardized one, also was a master rifleman and knows the ballistics & marksmanship in the gospel according to Earl W makes (as Ruark wrote) no sense whatever).

The Leo Sauvage articles were mailed to Penn last week, by Sauvage himself, at my request. I don't have but one of each and hesitate to ask him for another set so soon. Can you read Penn's copies? In fact, I don't even have my own set now, I loaned them to a friend at the UN who was very interested. But I will send you a copy of the next issue, which ~~was~~ is supposed to have the letters to the editor deal.

You are not as excited by the RAMPARTS news as I am. Maybe I am reading too much into it, but it strikes me as one of those turning points, like the first sputnik going up or the emancipation proclamation or the victory of Castro. Welsh (the man who wrote me and Vince and others) telephoned me from California two nights ago; he is really a newcomer to the fold but soaking up information like a lush and full of fire.

Shirley, I don't know WHAT to make of the reconvening of the WC. My policy is always to approach them with utmost scepticism. I suppose it is possible that there is nothing more to this than meets the eye; but it is more probable and most probable that there is a lot more. In either case, we ought to take advantage of the gathering, maybe by writing to ask whether, after our cash outlays for the WR and the \$76 for the H & E the GPO will be kind enough to send us without further charge the financial statement that should have been included but was not? and asking also whether our entitlements should not extend to a report on the results of the FBI investigation which was still going on when the WR was issued? (WR 324 bottom of page).

Thanks for the dope on Jaffe and the Brown Brothers. I think the old emigre must be Raigorodsky, Paul. (Later) Yes, just looked up his testimony. Very interesting. Look at how closely Liebeler questioned Raigorodsky about DEM's dealings with the Browns, but when DEM himself was giving testimony a month later, not a word about the Browns! Anyway, one of them (Herman) is dead already (9H 17)--when, and of what causes? I guess Liebeler and Jenner were on the outs, they sure didn't tell each other what they had elicited from a witness that might affect the examination of another witness. Typical. Listen, Shirley; what do you make of the testimony of Mrs DEM that she saw the rifle in the closet room when Marina was showing her the apartment? She is the only witness in the whole world other than Marina (and the photo that LHO said was a composite and fake) who "authenticates" LHO's possession of a rifle. Marina I don't bother with, naturally; but Mrs DEM is the only obstacle to the proposition that LHO never received the pkge from Klein's. Not that I regard Mrs DEM as above suspicion--au contraire--except for the accusations she and George leveled at the FBI and their public

declarations that he was innocent. That could be a mere trick to accomplish just what it did accomplish--mix me up, and others as well. In fact, the declarations they made, as reported, are almost too ostentatious; yet, they prided themselves on their iconoclism and fearless adventurism, so go know.

I noticed the conflicting addresses in the DMN but not the ones in the phonebook. I went through the Dallas police roster but could ~~not~~ find only one of her two policeman friends, Burnley (Batchelor Exhibit 5002 page 29). No Alexander of any persuasion. Have you studied the business of Robert Adrian Taylor? The WR completely misrepresents what he said; he didn't change his mind about Oswald selling him a rifle. Pretty strange that the WC didn't take any testimony from him at all, though his fellow-worker Smith (Glen Emmet Smith) who had only hearsay and not much of that was called. Even queerer is the failure of the FBI, that incomparable tracer of Carcanos, to trace the army rifle Taylor bought and still had in his possession for easy reference to serial number etc. That is what would have been done in any honest effort to determine if LHO was the man who sold it. Also, what do you think about the WC's glib statements about how LHO easily could have saved the \$1500 to finance his so-called defection to the Soviet Union? I ran into the exhibit that shows he had only \$200 in the bank in Fort Worth in December 1958, nine months before he took off. Also ran into (and then lost the place) an exhibit that referred to a check he cashed as being a refund on his income tax. WR H&E studiously ignore any reference to LHO's income tax returns, though flooding us with Ruby's; why??? Did you know that he had to file even as a Marine? It seems they get room and board so no exemption and must pay income tax on Marine salary, even if only \$100 a month (on authority of Bill Crehan).

Another question: what about Oswald's route from New Orleans to Mexico? Bill just gave me an old newspaper clipping, a "leak" in August 1964, saying that "It is known, for instance, that he was seen in a Dallas bus station at 6 pm Sept 25 and that he crossed the border at Nuevo Laredo next day" (NY Post 8-31-64). A month later the WR came out and struggled heroically to "prove" he could not have been in Dallas, Austin, etc. What was going on, I wonder?

I forgot to mention Thomas Stamm in my preceding letter, the one on RAMPARTS. You wrote to Penn asking about him. He is one of my close contacts here in New York, I met him also at the New School class, and perfectly reliable.

I should have made a copy of this letter to send to Penn Jones but I stupidly forgot. If you have a photocopier, Shirley, could you please send Penn a copy?

About Bertha Cheek, now Lyles: you will see in Litchfield's testimony that he and Bertha were playmates for a while, until she tried to digest him in one big swallow and he broke away (as he tells it). The WC forgot to put Litchfield in the index to the Report; they did include Helmick, Wanda (See Sweat, Wanda) but then they forgot to include Sweat, Wanda. See also the complete perversion of Robert Frazier's testimony (WR 106) re last frame in which Governor C could have been shot from the TSHD window. Just no end to the WC's promiscuous disposition of the facts, is there.

Shirley, I hope your leg will be better very soon. For the third time, please send me your phone number, okay? Love and apologies for this disjointed reply.

Sylvia